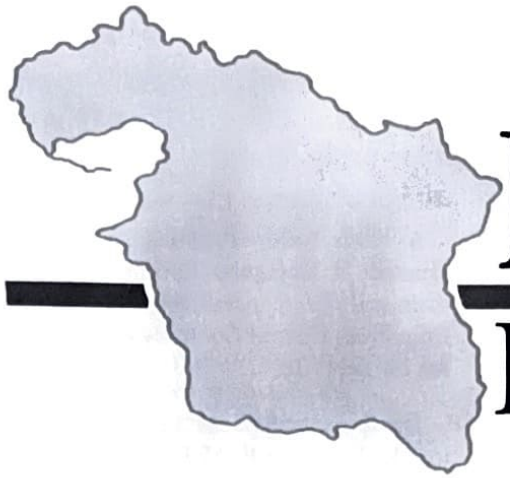

KASHMIR Report

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State Department Says Kashmir Is Not Part Of India

The Director of the Office of Bilateral Affairs of the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs of the State Department belied claims that Kashmir was part of India when he described it as an "area under Indian control." Arieti made this declaration when he testified before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on Sept. 25.

Arieti reiterated the American commitment to seek a "political solution" to the crisis in Kashmir.

KAC Executive Director Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai who also testified before the Caucus which specifically held the hearing to focus on the "deteriorating human rights conditions" in Indian Occupied Kashmir and Punjab, called for American support in pressuring India to release political prisoners, for US emergency relief for Kashmir, and for sending a Congressional investigative team into Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Dr. Fai asked the State Department to include a report on Indian atrocities in Kashmir in its annual human rights report.

The KAC Executive Director called upon the Congress to press the Kashmiri demand for the restoration of their right of self-determination guaranteed to them under the U.N. Resolutions of 1948 and 1949.

[Please contact KAC to obtain copies of testimonies presented at the hearings.]

Herger Says India Must Learn From Soviet Experience

Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA.) advised India that "the current political turmoil inside the Soviet Union should serve as a warning to any government who would use strong armed–repressive tactics" against people under its domain.

Rep. Herger, Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), Rep. Tom Lantos (CA), Rep. John Porter, and Rep. Faleomavega (D-Samoa) sharply questioned Indian terror tactics in Occupied Kashmir and Punjab when they testified in the hearings held by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus which were co-chaired by Reps. John Porter and Tom Lantos.

Aslam Hameed, National Coordinator of the Washington, D.C. based Committee for Human Rights in India (CoDHRI) speaking on behalf of India's minorities enumerated the pogroms being perpetrated by the Hindu fundamentalists with Indian Government collusion.

The President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Gormit Singh Aulakh, debunked the Indian claim that Sikhs were not interested in an independent state. Aulakh said that the Sikhs had been betrayed by the Hindu rulers of India. He said they would stop nothing short of a free and independent Khalistan.

Justice Ajit Singh Bains of the Punjab Human Rights Organization gave a roll call of Indian human rights violations in the occupied territory.

AI Details Indian Tactics To Bar Team Visit

John Nides, Government Program Officer for Asian Affairs, Amnesty International, told the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on Sept. 25 that India has not as yet indicated a date on which the Amnesty International could visit Occupied Kashmir and Punjab to investigate Indian atrocities.

The AI had telexed formal requests on March 5 and May 23 to visit Indian Occupied Kashmir but Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral had surprisingly informed the Indian parliament on August 8 that the AI had not made any such requests. Nides said that AI was attempting to finalize a date for the visit.

Kashmiris Reaffirm Commitment to Goals

Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN) declared: "It is not difficult to understand why human rights abuses abound in India. India's own laws encourage these human rights abuses."

The Representative was addressing the Second General Assembly of the Kashmiri American Council at Dayton, Ohio on September 2, 1990. The Assembly was attended by delegates from 37 states in the U.S., who had gathered to evaluate the past to help make tomorrow effective and useful in the attainment of the goal of self-determination. Rep. Burton who has maintained "a deep and longstanding interest in the human rights situation in India" since his election to the Congress in 1982, recounted the acts of Indian oppression in the occupied valley, reiterating his position that the time had come to "knock down the wall, which hides the world's largest so-called 'democracy', from the scrutiny of the international human rights community." He demanded that the time had come to "hold India to the same human rights standards to which we hold every other democracy

in the world. He declred: "it is time to give the people of Kashmir the right to determine their own future, so they can enjoy the same freedoms that we enjoy here in the United States." He assured his continued support for the struggle in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The Council President, Dr. Ashraf Sahaf highlighting the organization's mission said that the KAC was working closely with other organizations that had similar objectives. Dr. Sahaf explained the need for the establishment of the Council and the work it was doing in Washington, D.C. in educating the American people and the leadership by providing them the truth about India and the Kashmir issue.

The Executive Director of the Kashmiri American Foundation (KAF) Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai who presented his year to date report stressed the need for an integrated campaign directly addressed to key American groups that make and shape U.S. foreign policy. This, he said, included U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch the media and think tanks. He added the need to counter the concerted disinformation campaign launched by the powerful Indian lobby in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Fai said that KAF was constantly reminding fellow Americans that the international community has long accepted that Kashmir has a special status. He said the Council has asked the U.S. to support international relief efforts in Kashmir. It should encourage India to open up Kashmir for the international community, he Executive Director stressed that the Kashmiri-Americans had set up a mechanism in the shape of the Kashmiri American Council (KAC) and the Kashmiri American Foundation (KAF) to present the case of Kashmir before the representatives of the American people. He said now it is for all of us to work as a unified force in order to benefit from its presence in the Nation's Capital.

Dr. Fai said that the Kashmiri-Americans need to work with this information in mind that the Indian lobby in the West had created the following notions:

a—the situation in Kashmir threatens to destabilize delicate Indo-Pakistan relations or the existing status quo.

b—that the movement in Kashmir was really a issue raised by the "Muslim fundamentalists" otherwise "secular" Kashmirs prefer the Indian occupation. And that the victory of "fundamentalism" will hurt U.S. interests.

c—that Kashmir claim for self-determination did not have any historical foundations.

He said that the Kashmiris have to respond to such propaganda with direct, positive, constructive answers. He said that these should include "our commitment to a peaceful settlement as envisaged by the U.N. resolutions of 1948 and 1949." The people of Kashmir are a party to the dispute and should be included in any negotiations between India and Pakistan. The U.S. should join international humanitarian efforts in Kashmir and the U.S. should encourage India to open Kashmir to visits by foreigners especially human rights groups and U.S. Congressmen.

Dr. Akram Dar presented the financial report which was followed by a presentation on the KAF's lobbying efforts. The Assembly voted to ratify the bylaws of the Council.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, Secretary General of the World Kashmiri Freedom Movement (WKFM), gave a presentation on how WKFM is coordinating efforts on the international level to support the struggle inside Indian Occupied Kashmir. Mr. Mohammad Sabir Chowdhury, Secretary General of the Kashmir Federation of USA, gave an overall account of his organization's work in New York.

Leading Kashmiri Doctor Jailed By Indian Rulers

Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru, the leading Kashmiri cardiac surgeon was arrested on Sept. 11 at the New Delhi airport. The American educated medical expert who is founder of the Kashmir Medicare, a medical relief service in Indian Occupied Kashmir was returning home after visiting the holy cities in Saudi Arabia.

A KAC spokesman condemning Dr. Guru's detention in the infamous Tihar Prison in New Delhi said that the doctor's arrest would endanger the lives of his patients and severely setback medical services in the occupied valley. The spokesman said that India has stopped medical supplies and curtailed medical services.

Kashmiri Employees Dismissal Elicits Anti-India Wave

A fresh wave of anti-India violence erupted in Occupied Kashmir over the dismissal of five members of the Kashmir Employees Central Coordinating Committee on Sept. 20.

The five executive members, A.H. Mattoo, N. Akhtar, A.R. Mobariki, M. Sheikh and A. Salam, were dismissed by the Indian Occupation Governor Girish Saxena on charges that they took part in a general strike protesting Indian atrocities and in support of a United Nations supervised plebiscite to determine the future of the occupied territory. Indian Occupation Forces have failed to re-open government offices in Kashmir since they shut down on Sept. 16. The strikers have refused talks with India.

A huge women's rally was held in Srinagar in support of the dismissed men.

U.S. Activists Say Congress Support Kashmir Rights

American anti-war activists, mother, Marguerite and son, Edward Hasbrouk said that "we need to get [US] Congress and the State Department to push India-now-to let Kashmir go free".

The Hasbrouks who compare Indian terror in Occupied Kashmir with oppression in Palestine, El Salvador, South Africa and Tienanmen Square, write: "Historical and political disputes give India layers of false excuses for its conduct in Kashmir. The bottom line is that there is no excuse for these increasingly genocidal means of repression, no excuse for the colonialism they serve. It's that simple."

In their article published in the American Friends Service Committee, the Hashbrouks express confidence that: "US pressure in the UN Security Council could help bring about a plebiscite in Kashmir, hopefully while something remains of Kashmir and its people."

Indian Troops Set Bus Afire; Kill 30

Indian Occupation Forces (IOF) set a bus afire in Occupied Kashmir killing 30 passengers on Sept. 11 on the pretext that they were shooting at "militants."

The IOF troops shot and killed four passengers and then set the bus ablaze burning alive 26 other passengers.

Song Stirs Emotions At Dayton Assembly

A blanket of tearful silence enveloped the General Assembly meeting on Sept. 2 when Bashir Ahmad, a KAC member from Boston, concluded the final session with a stirring song.

The song which was in Urdu lamented about the lost homeland for which any sacrifice was forthcoming.

India Abetting Output of Chemical Weapons

The Far Eastern Economic Review (Sept. 6, 1990.) reported that India was actively involved in supplying the chemicals weapons plant operated by Iraq.

A KAC spokesman commenting on the report said that this disclosure did not come as a surprise because India was characteristically a criminal entity. While it masquerades itself to be a "democracy", India maintains close links with countries which like itself do not respect human rights.

Kashmiri Americans Hosts Dinner To Honor Burton

Rep. Dan Burton was guest of honor at a dinner hosted by the Kashmiri American community in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 12.

The Congressman who is an outspoken critic of Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir was introduced by Dr. Shah, the master of ceremonies. He highlited the activities of the Council and the role played by Rep. Burton in bringing attention to the Indian atrocities in Kashmir. Dr. Shah said that those who support the Kashmiri cause are a source of enlightenment and encouragement. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, Secretary General of the World Kashmir Freedom Movemnt (WKFM) provided the historical background of the Kashmir dispute. He pointed out that the instrument of India's independence remains incomplete till such time the Kashmir issue is not settled in accordance with the U.N. resolutions. In his speech, Dr. Mir focused on the India's barbaric repression in Occupied Kashmir since 1948. Dr. Mr said the Indian aggression had not only adversely affected the peaceful character of the Kashmiri people but also militarized the region.

KAC Executive Director Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai said when the Kashmiri Americans had met in January 1990 they hardly imagined that a Congressperson would speak for justice, peace and human rights in the face of intense Indian lobbying. He said it was a pleasant surprise for the community that a moral man came forward to take up this challenge. Dr. Fai said that the Kashmiris love and respect Dan Burton who had the courage to speak for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

The KAC Executive Director contrasted the speed of the U.N. actions in the face of the Gulf crisis versus the callous attitude toward the Kashmir issue which is pending for over forty years.

Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Syeed, a member of the Kashmiri American Foundation, spoke about the prevailing situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir. He talked about his personal experience in a Indian torture chamber during 1965 where he was burnt all over his body with lighted cigarettes. He said that the so-called largest democracy in the world was in fact a racist identity very similar to South Africa's apartheid. Dr. Syeed said India's social system had relegated 200 million so-called "Untouchables" into pariahs.

Dr. Syeed pointed toward the criminal nature of India which was an important partner in Iraq's chemical weapons industry.

He said the Kashmiris consider the Congressman as a kind of savior.

Dr. Ghulam Mohiud Din who introduced the Congressman, spoke about his contributions to the cause of human rights. He said that Dan Burton's actions would definitely contribute toward saving lives in the occupied valley. He called upon Congressman Burton to implore his colleagues to join him in this noble cause.

Congressman Burton declared that the people of Kashmir must be allowed to determine their own future through free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the supervision of the United Nations. This inherent right, he said, has been recognized by both India and Pakistan. The people of Kashmir, he said, must be enabled to exercise this right.

The Congressman enumerated the Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir. He pointed out that Kashmir has its own history and culture. Its population, he said, was larger in population and territory than several countries now recognized as sovereign and independent.

Congressman Burton said that India had launched a reign of terror to suppress the right of self-determination that has been recognized by all nations including the U.S. He said it was most unfortunate that Americans and the world was focusing attention on the Middle East crisis while overlooking the situation in Kashmir.

The Congressman restated his apprehension that India will place hurdles in the way of the Amnesty International. He said this has been confirmed in the course of his meeting with the Indian ambassador, Abid Husain.

Dr. Asif Qadri thanked the Kashmiri American community and their friends for attending the dinner. He asked them to work unitedly and with vigor to educate and inform the American people about the real aspects of the Kashmir issue.

Congressman Dan Burton Feted In California

The Kashmiri American community in Los Angeles hosted a dinner on Sept. 20 to honor of Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN) for his leading role in highlighting the cause of the Kashmiri people. A KAC spokesman said that it was time to listen to Congressman Burton's advice and try our utmost in tearing down the wall that hides Indian barbarism—just as the Germans tore down the ugly Berlin Wall that hid the ills of Communism in East Germany.

The Kashmiri Americans demanded that the vigor they were witnessing in impos-

ing United Nations resolutions against the Iraqi occupation should be evident in asking India to implement the United Nations Resolutions of 1948 and 1949 which were initiated by both India and Pakistan and approved by all nations including the United States. They reminded that Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is on record of reiterating, at least on one hundred different occasions, India's commitment to restore the right of self-determination in Occupied Kashmir.

The Kashmiris declared that the solution lies in the United Nations Resolution and not in the bilateral Simla Agreement.

KAC Informs W. Samoa P.M. About Kashmir Issue

A KAC deletion met with the Prime Minister of Western Samoa to enlighten him on the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The delegation also called upon the Prime Minister to support the Kashmiri right of self-determination. The meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 27.

Rep. Dornan Says India Denies Human Rights In Kashmir

Rep. Robert K. Dornan (Ca.), a member of the House Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, has expressed his regret over the violation of human rights by India in Occupied Kashmir.

The Representative, in a letter to a constituent, said India has also been "ruthless in its crackdown on minority religious communities." He added that he would bring up these issues when U.S. relations with India are discussed in the House.

Indian Troops Burn Newly Weds To Death

A newly wed couple was burnt alive on Sept. 23 when Indian Occupation Forces cordoned off their house in Jamalata, near downtown Srinager, and set it afire.

The Indian press has confirmed that the Indian Occupation Forces were responsible for the July 8 Khag Magam fire where 20 Kashmiris were locked in their homes which were then set afire. None escaped this holocaust.

India Sets Afire Over 1,500 Homes, Burn 40 in Kashmir

India has intensified its scorched earth policy in Occupied Kashmir burning alive over 14 people when set afire more than 750 homes in eight localities, near downtown Srinagar on October 7.

According to eye-witness accounts the Indian Occupation Forces (IOF) troops that set the homes afire prevented fire-fighters and other relief personnel from reaching the affected areas. The areas destroyed in the fire Sunday were Wazapora, Budhghair, Kawdara, Bulbul Lankar, Manshi Mohalla, Bana Mohalla, Chinkarian Mohalla, and Narparistan.

A wave of IOF ignited fires destroyed over 100 homes in Noorbagh, Gander Mohalla and Safakadal localities of Srinagar on October 8.

The Voice of America informed that the fire which was started by the IOF troops at 9.00 a.m. continued to blaze till 10.00 p.m. This fire was a follow up to other recent blazes, including the burning of over 400 homes in Handwara on October 4 in which 20 people were killed.

A KAC spokesman condemning the latest round of Indian terrorism appealed to President Bush and all freedom loving peoples of the world to show their concern for the loss of human lives and property in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said that the scorched earth policy of the Indian Occupation belies claims that India is interested in a peaceful settlement.

The KAC spokesman stressed the need for urgent United Nations action, specifically calling for the urgent enactment of the UN Resolutions of 1948 and 1949 that guarantee a plebiscite in Occupied Kashmir.

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